In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-22. (cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) Recognition unit comprising a processor for executing instructions for recognizing synchronization signals in at least one audiovisual programme received, said audiovisual programme comprising an audiovisual content intended to be transmitted to users and control information, said recognition unit comprising:

a reception module and a recording module for recording in a storage space, recognition elements making it possible to obtain at least one extracted portion of the content of said audiovisual programme,

a reception module for receiving via a broadcasting network, at least one transmitted stream carrying said audiovisual programme,

a detection module for detecting said synchronization signals in said audiovisual programme received, by means of said recognition elements stored in said storage space, by recognition in the content of said audiovisual programme received, of said extracted portion,

and a transmission module for transmitting action instructions in case of detection of said synchronization signals in said audiovisual programme, said instructions being designed to trigger at least one action,

wherein the module for receiving the recognition elements is designed to receive among said recognition elements, instructions for extracting said extracted portion from at least one stream of an audiovisual programme previously received by the stream reception module, said portion being extracted from said audiovisual

programme previously received, and in that said recording module is designed to directly extract said portion of said stream according to said extraction instructions and to record the said portion in the storage space.

24. (Previously presented) Recognition unit according to Claim 23, wherein the module (21, 24) for receiving the recognition elements is designed to receive a triggering message and in that the recording module is designed to extract and record upon receipt of said triggering message, said portion of said previously received stream.

25. (Previously presented) Recognition unit according to Claim 23, wherein the module for receiving the recognition elements is also designed to receive among said recognition elements, at least one identifier of said extracted portion, and in that said detection module is capable of retrieving from the storage space said previously recorded extracted portion associated with said identifier, so as to recognize in the content of said audiovisual programme received said extracted portion.

26.(Previously presented) Recognition unit according to Claim 23, wherein the module for receiving the recognition elements is also designed to receive directly the said extracted portion among the said recognition elements and the recording module is designed to record the said extracted portion in the storage space.

27.(Previously presented) Recognition unit according to Claim 23, wherein the recognition unit also comprises a timeout module before dispatch of said action instructions by the transmission module.

28. (Previously presented) Recognition unit according to Claim 23, wherein the modules for receiving and for recording recognition elements and the module for transmitting action instructions are designed to respectively receive, record and transmit identifiers relating to the said actions to be triggered.

29. (Previously presented) Recognition unit according to Claim 23, wherein each of said portions of content consists of at least one of the following portions: a picture, a piece of a picture, a sound and any combination of at least two of said portions.

30. (Previously presented) Recognition unit according to Claim 23, wherein said recognition elements include at least one Boolean operator, said detection module being designed to detect at least two of said portions of content in conjunction with said Boolean operator and the transmission module being designed to transmit said action instructions in case of such detection.

31.(Previously presented) Recognition unit according to Claim 23, wherein said recognition elements include at least one time information item, said detection module being designed to detect said portions of content in conjunction with said time information item and the transmission module being designed to transmit said action instructions in case of such detection.

32.(Previously presented) Recognition unit according to Claim 31, wherein said time information item comprises at least one information item chosen from among a date of detection and a detection time slot.

33.(Previously presented) Recognition unit according to Claim 23, wherein said recognition elements include at least one channel reference, said detection module being designed to detect said portions of content in conjunction with said channel reference and the transmission module being designed to transmit said action instructions in case of such detection.

34. (Currently Amended) Specification unit comprising a processor for executing instructions for specifying synchronization signals associated with at least one audiovisual programme, said audiovisual programme comprising an audiovisual content intended to be transmitted to users and control information, and said

synchronization signals being intended to be detected in at least one stream carrying said audiovisual programme transmitted via a broadcasting network and to thus trigger at least one action,

wherein said specification unit comprises:

a preparation module for preparing recognition elements making it possible to obtain at least one extracted portion of the content of said audiovisual programme,

and a transmission module for transmitting said recognition elements independently of transmissions of said audiovisual programme, to at least one recognition unit intended to detect said synchronization signals in said transmitted stream carrying said audiovisual programme, by recognizing said extracted portion in the content of said audiovisual programme,

and wherein the preparation and transmission modules of said unit are designed respectively to prepare and transmit extraction instructions, in at least one stream of an audiovisual programme previously received by the recognition unit via the broadcasting network, for extracting said portion of content, said portion being extracted from said audiovisual programme previously received.

35. (Previously presented) Specification unit according to Claim 34, wherein the preparation and transmission modules of said unit are designed respectively to prepare and transmit identifiers relating to said actions to be triggered in the case of detection of said synchronization signals.

36. (Previously presented) Specification unit according to Claim 35, wherein said action identifiers relate to at least one of the following actions: transmission of an interactive service, triggering of an interactive service, triggering of

an update of an interactive service, triggering of a recording of said audiovisual programme and connection to a website.

37. (Currently Amended) Synchronization system including a processor for executing instructions comprising:

a specification unit for specifying synchronization signals associated with at least one audiovisual programme, said audiovisual programme comprising an audiovisual content intended to be transmitted to users and control information,

a recognition unit for recognizing said synchronization signals in at least one stream carrying said audiovisual programme transmitted via a broadcasting network, by recognizing at least one extracted portion of the content of said audiovisual programme, in the audiovisual programme received,

and an activation unit designed to trigger at least one action in the case of detection of said synchronization signals by the recognition unit,

wherein the specification unit is designed to prepare and transmit to the recognition unit recognition elements making it possible to obtain said extracted portion and comprising instructions for extracting said portion of the content from at least one stream of an audiovisual programme previously received by the recognition unit via the broadcasting network, said portion being extracted from said audiovisual programme previously received, and in that the recognition unit is designed to directly extract said portion of said stream according to said extraction instructions and to record said portion.

38. (Currently presented) Broadcasting centre, wherein it comprises a specification unit in accordance with Claim 34.

39. (Currently presented) Broadcasting centre, wherein it comprises a recognition unit in accordance with Claim 23.

40. (Previously presented) Broadcasting centre, wherein it comprises a synchronization system in accordance with Claim 37.

41.(Currently presented) Services operator, wherein it comprises a specification unit in accordance with Claim 34.

42.(Currently presented) Services operator, wherein it comprises a recognition unit in accordance with Claim 23.

43.(Previously presented) Services operator, wherein it comprises a synchronization system in accordance with Claim 37.

44.(Currently presented) Terminal, wherein it comprises a specification unit in accordance with Claim 34.

45. (Currently presented) Terminal, wherein it comprises a recognition unit in accordance with Claim 23.

46.(Previously presented) Terminal, wherein it comprises a synchronization system in accordance with Claim 37.

47. (Currently amended) Process, implemented by a processor including executable instructions, for activation by recognition of synchronization signals in at least one audiovisual programme received, said audiovisual programme comprising an audiovisual content intended to be transmitted to users and control information, said process comprising the following steps:

reception via a broadcasting network, of at least one transmitted stream carrying said audiovisual programme,

detection of said synchronization signals in said audiovisual programme received by means of recognition elements making it possible to obtain at least one extracted portion of the content of said audiovisual programme and stored in a storage space, by recognizing said extracted portion, in the content of said audiovisual programme,

and triggering of at least one action in case of detection of the said synchronization signals in said audiovisual programme,

wherein said recognition elements including instructions for extracting said extracted portion from at least one stream of a previously received audiovisual programme, by extracting said portion from said audiovisual programme previously received, said portion of said previously received stream is extracted directly according to said extraction instructions and said portion is recorded in the storage space,

said process of activation being implemented by means of a recognition unit and an activation unit.

48. (Currently amended) Specification process, implemented by a processor including executable instructions, for specifying synchronization signals associated with at least one audiovisual programme, said audiovisual programme comprising an audiovisual content intended to be transmitted to users and control information, and said synchronization signals being intended to be detected in at least one stream carrying said audiovisual programme transmitted via a broadcasting network and to thus trigger at least one action,

wherein said specification process comprises the following steps:

preparation of recognition elements making it possible to obtain at least one extracted portion of the content of said audiovisual programme,

transmission of said information independently of transmissions of said audiovisual programme, for detection of said synchronization signals in said transmitted stream carrying the said audiovisual programme, by recognizing said extracted portion in the content of said audiovisual programme,

and transmission of extraction instructions, in at least one stream of an audiovisual programme previously received by the recognition unit via the broadcasting network, for extracting said portion of content, by extracting said portion from said audiovisual programme previously received,

said specification process being implemented by means of a specification unit.

49. (Currently amended) Synchronization process, implemented by a processor including executable instructions, comprising the following steps:

a step of specifying synchronization signals associated with at least one audiovisual programme, said audiovisual programme comprising an audiovisual content intended to be transmitted to users and control information, in which step recognition elements making it possible to obtain at least one extracted portion of the content of said audiovisual programme are specified for said detection,

a step of detecting said synchronization signals in at least one stream carrying said audiovisual programme transmitted via a broadcasting network, in which step said synchronization signals are detected in said audiovisual programme received, by recognizing said extracted portion in the content of said audiovisual programme,

and a step of triggering at least one action in case of detection of said synchronization signals,

wherein said recognition elements comprising instructions for extracting said portion of content from at least one stream of an audiovisual programme previously received by the recognition unit via the broadcasting network, by extracting said portion from said audiovisual programme previously received, are prepared and transmitted to the recognition unit, and wherein said portion of said stream is extracted directly according to said extraction instructions and said portion is recorded,

said synchronization process being implemented by a synchronization system.

50. (Currently amended)   A   computer   readable   non-transitory storage medium encoded with a computer program comprising the steps of:

reception via a broadcasting network, of at least one transmitted stream carrying an audiovisual programme, said audiovisual programme comprising an audiovisual content intended to be transmitted to users and control information,

detection of synchronization signals in said audiovisual programme received by means of recognition elements making it possible to obtain at least one extracted portion of the content of said audiovisual programme and stored in a storage space, by recognizing said extracted portion, in the content of said audiovisual programme,

and triggering of at least one action in case of detection of the said synchronization signals in said audiovisual programme,

wherein said recognition elements including instructions for extracting said extracted portion from at least one stream of a previously received audiovisual programme, by extracting said portion from said audiovisual programme previously received, said portion of said previously received stream is extracted directly according to said extraction instructions and said portion is recorded in the storage space.

51. (Currently amended) A computer readable <u>non-transitory storage</u> medium encoded with a computer program comprising the steps of:

preparation of recognition elements making it possible to obtain at least one extracted portion of content of an audiovisual programme, said audiovisual programme comprising an audiovisual content intended to be transmitted to users and control information,

transmission of said information independently of transmissions of said audiovisual programme, for detection of synchronization signals in said transmitted stream carrying said audiovisual programme, by recognizing said extracted portion in the content of said audiovisual programme,

and transmission of extraction instructions, in at least one stream of an audiovisual programme previously received by the recognition unit via the broadcasting network, for extracting said portion of content, by extracting said portion from said audiovisual programme previously received.

52. (Currently amended) A computer readable <u>non-transitory storage</u> medium encoded with a computer program comprising the steps of:

a step of specifying synchronization signals associated with at least one audiovisual programme, said audiovisual programme comprising an audiovisual content intended to be transmitted to users and control information, in which step recognition elements making it possible to obtain at least one extracted portion of the content of said audiovisual programme are specified for said detection,

a step of detecting said synchronization signals in at least one stream carrying said audiovisual programme transmitted via a broadcasting network, in which

step said synchronization signals are detected in said audiovisual programme received, by recognizing said extracted portion in the content of said audiovisual programme,

and a step of triggering at least one action in case of detection of said synchronization signals,

wherein said recognition elements comprising instructions for extracting said portion of content from at least one stream of an audiovisual programme previously received by the recognition unit via the broadcasting network, by extracting said portion from said audiovisual programme previously received, are prepared and transmitted to the recognition unit, and wherein said portion of said stream is extracted directly according to said extraction instructions and said portion is recorded.